



San Diego City Attorney **CASEY GWINN**

MEDIA RELEASE

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CITY ATTORNEY WINS GRANT TO PUT MORE PROSECUTORS INTO THE COMMUNITY

San Diego, CA — The first wave of community outreach in law enforcement was so-called “Neighborhood Policing.” The San Diego Police Department has set the standard for the nation. Now, San Diego City Attorney Casey Gwinn is going to move prosecutors from the courtroom to the neighborhoods of San Diego to move the community outreach vision forward.

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) this week awarded the San Diego City Attorney’s Office one of nine grants to foster collaborative efforts between local prosecutors’ offices and the community. “Community prosecutors provide residents with an opportunity to participate in strategic decision-making, which can make their neighborhoods safer and help restore the community damaged by crime,” said Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder. City Attorney Casey Gwinn highlights that this grant, along with a recently awarded Mid-City Community Court Grant from DOJ, continues to be a very exciting project as it brings together the courts, prosecutors, public defenders, social services, law enforcement, and the neighborhood groups to deal with misdemeanor quality of life crimes in the neighborhoods where they have the most impact. Assistant City Attorney Gael Strack has emphasized that it will further enhance the concept of neighborhood policing in the areas of code enforcement, drugs, gangs, graffiti, theft, and a variety of other criminal offenses that impact our inner city neighborhoods.

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The grant for \$150,000 for 18 months will compliment the current efforts of the City Attorney's Office in solving crime and public safety problems in the Mid-City area and to implement the community prosecution philosophy in the planned Mid-City Community Court. The Community Prosecutor funded by this grant will serve as a liaison to the community, working with police officers and community members on Mid-City concerns. The Community Court Coordinator and Community Prosecutor will be working closely to plan, implement and enhance a community court in the Mid-City area of San Diego as well as strengthen the prevention and intervention projects currently underway.

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